

THE macdonald JOURNAL

DECEMBER 1978



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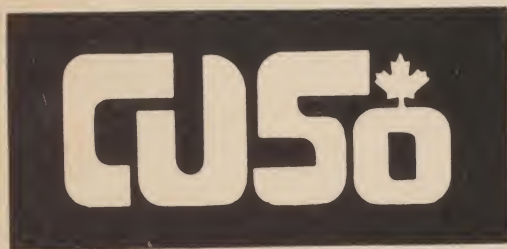
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DECEMBER 1978

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Journal Jottings

Hear the sleigh bells? I hadn't for
years until I took the cover photo
just three days after Christmas last
year. What a wonderful sight! What
a wonderful sound! As I took it I
thought it would make an attractive
wintery "Christmas" scene ap-
propriate for the December issue.
The photo could have been taken
years ago and thus be used now as
a touch of nostalgia for Christmases
past, however, if you have been
following the fairs, local parades,
and plowing matches in the last few
years, you will have noticed the
growing interest in draught horses.
More and more people are finding a
place for them on their farms. As a
result the sight and sound of a team
of horses can still be a familiar part
of Christmas present and

Christmases to come. I hope that
some of you will hear the joyful
sound of sleigh bells this winter.

A part of this season's tradition is to
thank the contributors in this and
past issues for their interest in and
support of the Journal. We do so
most sincerely and extend to all
Season's Greetings and a wish for
all that's good in the New Year.

Hazel M. Clarke

The English rural newspaper in Quebec plays a very important role as a cultural link within the community it serves. In many respects it is a vehicle that creates and nurtures a community feeling among the widely dispersed cultural groups. Very often the local newspaper is the only channel of local, regional, and even provincial and national information that is available to a community.

A survey conducted by the Extension Department of Macdonald College illustrated the serious difficulties that are being experienced by rural Anglophone newspapers. Some difficulties can be attributed to the geographic location of the paper, which provides a limited economic base to supplement the much-needed financial support. However, the unfortunate but significant decline in population, especially in the rural English-speaking population, over the past decade has aggravated the dilemma of the small newspaper.

The survey indicated that of the total of 15 papers enumerated, 36 per cent are run as a family operation, and 29 per cent are produced by part-time staff. This illustrates that the papers are forced to operate under stringent conditions in order to cater to their very limited market.

The commendable and persistent efforts undertaken by these papers to ensure that the news and events are available to the Anglophone communities, despite the mounting odds, are unfortunately not sufficiently appreciated. The survey indicated that there is definitely room for improved relationship and more feedback from readers. Most papers could only give negative comments when questioned on their readership. Words such as apathetic, very quiet, indifferent, unresponsive were not uncommon throughout the survey.

All editors enumerated welcomed more participation and comments from individuals as well as groups in their own community as a means of sharing concerns and issues with a wider audience.

It is unfortunate that groups in rural communities are neglecting to make more use of the local paper, which is certainly at their disposal to inform others and hence stimulate more interest in their work and activities. The local paper is definitely an ideal medium to promote community involvement, which is so necessary in the rural environment.

Martin van Lierop,
Editor.

Macdonald Tops the 1,000 Mark!

**by Dr. Jean David
Associate Dean and
Registrar**

For the eighth year in a row registration at Macdonald College has increased. Enrolment in degree programs in Agriculture and Food Science stands at 740, while 95 students are taking the new two-year Diploma course. In addition, some 194 graduate students are registered in the various departments of the Faculty. To my knowledge, this is the first time that the total number of students associated with the Faculty has surpassed the 1,000 mark.

There are a number of reasons that can be advanced to explain this phenomenon. The first is undoubtedly the ever-increasing popularity of Agriculture, Food Science, and other related areas as courses of study and as careers. This phenomenon is not restricted to Macdonald; similar situations have been reported by all agricultural colleges in North America. One reason may be that today's young people are looking for more applied sciences to study rather than the more theoretical approaches and, in their minds, more meaningful things to do after graduation.

Another event is occurring as well. More and more women are attracted to Faculties of Agriculture. In the past, women enrolled generally in Horticulture, but now they choose any of the fields. For the current academic year, 40 per cent of the students registered for the B.Sc. (Agr.) degree are women.

The fact that the Faculty has reorganized its programs and



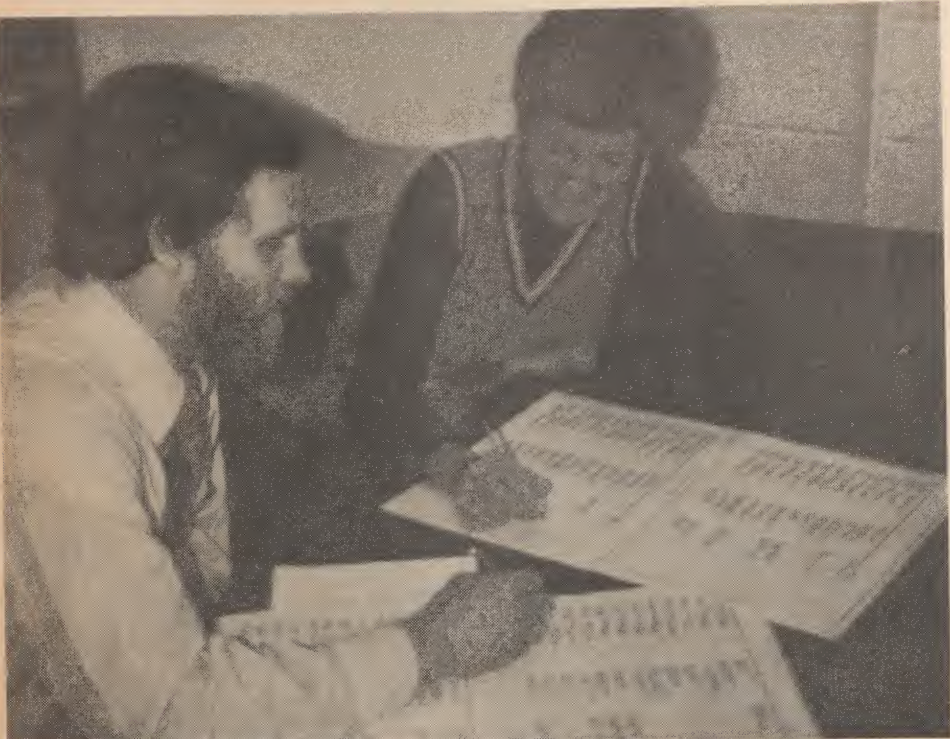
Dr. Jean David discusses course selection with a student.

broadened its offerings is another reason for the larger number of students. We have identified four large academic divisions: Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Renewable Resources Development, and Food and Consumer Sciences, with new or revamped programs in all of them. Programs such as Plant Science, Environmental Biology, Botanical Sciences, Environmental Conservation, Land Planning and Development, Nutrition, Food Chemistry, and Food Science.

More than ever our students come from the urban areas, and the number of students whose mother tongue is French has increased at a



Filling in forms is also part of student life. Left to right are third-year Agriculture student Caroline Begg and second year Agricultural Engineering student Don Marshall.



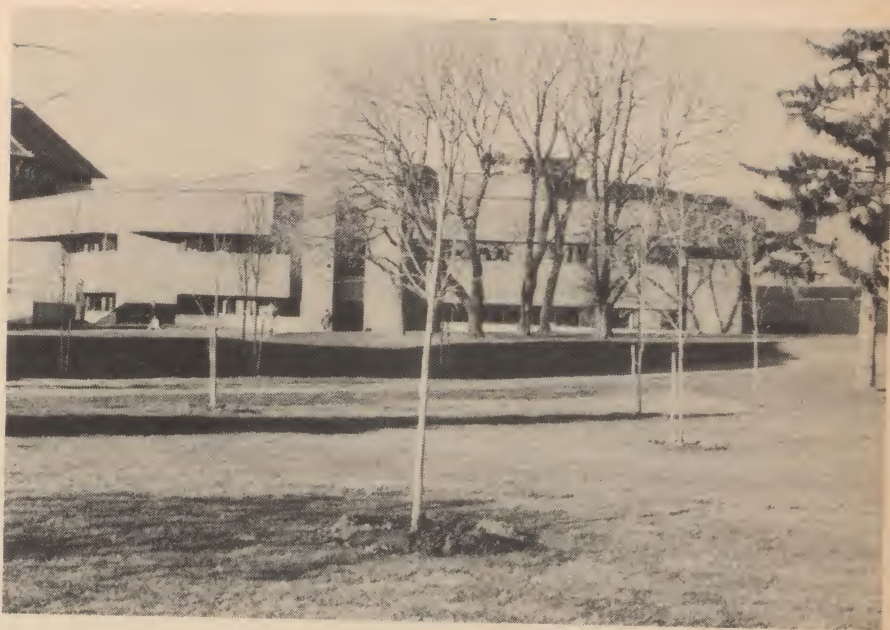
Assistant Registrar Stephen Olive and Doreen Davidson of the Registrar's office preparing statistics from student lists.

rapid rate which speaks well for the excellent reputation Macdonald has been able to build and maintain in Quebec. Unfortunately, the number of foreign students has decreased slightly because we are unable to offer courses that would bring many of these students to the same level of preparation as the CEGEP graduates. Needless to say, this abundance of students is putting strains on our human and physical resources. Not so long ago, a large proportion of our courses had less than 20 students in them. Today, this is the exception rather than the rule. We have courses with between 150 and 200 students. Other courses are taught every term to ease the pressure. However, in spite of this kind of situation — and while having to adjust to the new environ-



ment of the Macdonald-Stewart Building, both staff and students have adjusted well and the spirit of Macdonald is ever present.

When one looks at the future for the students and the Faculty, one cannot help but be confident. To date, employment has been good, generally speaking, with the exception of some of the less known areas of study, and the students themselves took steps last summer to remedy this situation. With Agriculture, Food Science, and related areas becoming increasingly scientific, the need for our graduates will certainly continue, not only in this country, but abroad as well. The Faculty of Agriculture and the School of Food Science at Macdonald are in a healthy state and will remain so for a long time.



Above, facing north, is a view of the building through newly-planted maple trees. On the lower level is the School of Food Science and, further left, the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Physics. The next level is administration office and Lyman Museum offices. Below: The Macdonald-Stewart

Building nestles between the Raymond (Agriculture) Building and the Barton Building. The Library will be moving into the Barton Building over the next few weeks and, when renovations are completed, the Departments of Plant Science and Economics will be housed in the Raymond Building.



With the article on Macdonald going over the 1,000 mark in student registration, we thought it would be appropriate to show you a few scenes of the new Macdonald-Stewart Building. As landscaping and construction are completed, we will feature more photos of the "new campus". The photo to the left is a close-up view of the main entrance to the Macdonald-Stewart Building. Registration offices are to the left of the main entrance; the Extension Department is to the right. One floor above at this end of the Building is the Department of Microbiology.

FARM MANAGERS FOR THE FUTURE

by Professor N. C. Lawson
Director, Diploma Program

As we sit poised on the edge of the 1980s, the two decades that lie ahead between now and the beginning of the 21st Century fill many of us with anxiety. What will the future be like? Will we as individuals be able to cope? What is going to happen to farming, as we now know it, in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada and North America?

There are some statistical facts of life that cannot be ignored as we plan for the future. Firstly, there is the shift of farm workers into city jobs. The proportion of the work force in production agriculture has dropped to 5 per cent from 15 per cent in the last 25 years. Secondly, there has been a shift of women into the paid work force. More than 48 per cent of Canadian women now work outside the home, which is double the 24 per cent of women in the paid labour force a quarter of a century ago. Thirdly, there is the question of the baby boom. During the 50s, 60s and 70s productive Canadian mothers created an unprecedented demand for cribs, baby carriages, toys, larger houses and thus ultimately more and bigger schools and universities. Demographers, as the people who study population trends are called, are now telling us that the peak of this baby boom has moved through the education system and is now in the labour force. The number of young people requiring and desiring education and training is now forecasted to be diminishing.

Next we should take a look at the rural base of farm operators and attempt to forecast the future. Currently the number of farm operators

in Quebec has diminished to about 37,000. If the average working life of a farm manager is assumed to be 37 years, if we assume he takes over the operation at age 28 and continues until 65 years old, we can forecast that about 1,000 farm operators might be expected to retire each year. This would lead to a demand for 1,000 replacements per year. Probably a number of these 37,000 farm units will be absorbed in the current trend toward operating larger acreages, but a larger labour requirement per larger farm unit can also be anticipated.

Will there be 1,000 new young operator-managers available in Quebec every year for the next two decades? At the moment it seems extremely unlikely. The traditional source of young farmers has been the farm itself. One or more members of the family, in the past, would benefit from sound parental instruction which was frequently supplemented by agricultural college training to assure the continuance of the family farm. In Quebec we have been passing through two decades of industrial development. Many farm families believing in the value of higher education have urged their offspring into the professions such as law and accountancy in a quest for prestige and security. Many young people have escaped from the tedium of classroom work toward a job with a high hourly wage-rate in construction, transportation, or other industry. Frequently the work week in the new job is much less than on the farm and the apparent income is very much greater. Many young farm people with a strong interest in farming have been diverted from the farm by ambitious parents while on the other hand many sad farm families have seen their ambitious

children leave the farm which had been built and developed with the hope that it would be inherited and operated by close family members.

We can conclude from this that if the current trend continues, the shrinking rural population is not and will not be in a position to provide 1,000 potential farm operators and managers each year in Quebec.

In the last few years urban and suburban youth in Montreal and southwestern Quebec have shown a remarkable interest in training for farm management. Many of these young people have a very romantic notion of life on the land, a notion that is often based on inexperience. Some dream of homesteading and conquering the wilderness. Others are looking for the simple life of self-sufficiency at subsistence levels. Others have an idealistic urge to feed the masses around the globe. It is of interest to note that many of these young people are only two or three generations removed from the land and its traditions. The majority, however, have a realistic view.

When we discuss this problem with farmers a great many immediately reply that farmers are bred and not made. Farmers frequently suggest that you need to be born and bred on a farm and then spend a lifetime in acquiring the instinct to understand the complexity of farm operations and to manage the resources successfully. Yet most of us take our medical, dental, legal, and accounting problems to physicians, dentists, lawyers, and accountants, without previously investigating the personal forebears and antecedents of these professionals who handle complex and difficult problems. It would be a funny world indeed, if our occupations were transmitted

from generation to generation in our genes and chromosomes in the same manner as our eye and hair colour.

At Macdonald College in the Diploma in Agriculture Program we are endeavouring to produce men and women with the capability and capacity to operate and manage commercial farm units. The technical information that the student must absorb and understand in four terms on Campus is complicated. Mastery of the subject matter is not easy. Sound preparation in the high school and good study habits on the part of the student are essential for success in the academic part of the program. The outstanding high quality of the Faculty and Staff at Macdonald College has meant that the most signifi-



As part of the Diploma program, students spend two summers working on Quebec farms. They also receive practical instruction at the College Farm on good farm management practices in areas such as farm machinery, animal production, and crop management.



cant and modern information on theory and practice is provided for the students. This follows a long tradition of academic excellence.

A most interesting development has been the setting-up of a "Farm Practice" component as an integral part of the educational process. This has required the close cooperation of a large number of Quebec farmers. We have had three summers (1976, 77, 78) of experience with increasing numbers of students being placed on farms each year. Farmers have responded admirably to the invitation to participate. The basic idea and objectives are as follows:

1. **Prerequisite Experience:** The minimum period is four months which can be taken as two summers during high school vacations. Students are advised to work on a farm for 4-12 months continuously before entry if they cannot claim to be from farms.

Objective: An awareness of the seasonality and nature of agricultural production and the acquisition of as many work skills as possible.

2. **Farm Practice 1:** This is a term of 15 weeks starting early in May and running to mid-August. Students have completed their first academic year.

Objective: Satisfactory performance of most tasks encountered in the summer on a typical Quebec mixed farm. Ability to perform all tasks in the temporary absence of the owner. Ability to analyze the farm business from a financial viewpoint.

3. **Farm Practice 2:** This is the same length as Farm Practice 1 and is taken after the student has completed the second academic year.

Objective: The acquisition of specialized knowledge to enable the student to identify clearly the type of agricultural production to be followed in his or her subsequent career. The student should be able to undertake the management of the farm in the absence of the owner.

The response of farmers has been so good that we have had twice as many farmers as students for the Farm Practice 1 and 2 courses. There have been farmers who have made accommodation available for married couples. There is much evidence that the farmers of Quebec are concerned about training of young people to farm in the future.

We regret that we have not a greater supply of interested students to meet the current interest of farmers.

Occasionally a farm family will protest that they cannot do without the services of the son or daughter for the two summers required by the program. This is a most unfortunate attitude on the part of the parents as this is truly a golden opportunity for the young person to gain experience and insight by working and living with strangers who have evolved their own methods and procedures for coping with their problems. Also the family who start off as strangers are likely to become lifelong friends.

The response by a large number of individual farmers interested in becoming "training farmers" has been most gratifying. Clearly not all farmers are ideal training farmers. The first requirement is probably patience and understanding in dealing



College Farm Director Rudi Dallenbach explains the finer points of a cultivator to a group of second-year students.

with today's youth. The second requirement is a willingness to welcome the student into the family and a willingness to discuss very frankly the details of the farming operation including business arrangements and the process of decision making. The third requirement is a willingness to permit the student to carry out as many different jobs and tasks as are available on the farm while always keeping safety and non-abuse principles foremost in mind.

The student in return must apply all his talent, curiosity, and energy to the task of learning the skills and knowledge and performing all tasks willingly and as rapidly as possible.

Purely repetitive jobs in the manufacturing industries are likely to be fully automated long before the end of the century, but few jobs in agriculture are purely repetitive. It is difficult to see computers and micro-processors taking over farm work in the foreseeable future.

We can anticipate that the present polarization in food production will continue toward larger non-family businesses with professional management on the one hand, and family units that seldom employ non-family labour on the other hand. We are endeavouring to produce Diploma graduates for both of these situations. The part-time, hobby, or recreational farmers, whose numbers have blossomed recently, in general produce very little of our food supply. This type of farm is likely to persist if our affluent society persists. As a group, they are becoming a source of young people with a love of agriculture and are interested in full-time agricultural production.

Those of us who are involved in



Part of the learning process are field trips. This group, accompanied by College staff, spent several days at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. A part of the trip is spent visiting various agricultural enterprises in York County.

agricultural education are attempting to respond to the needs of society. We are proud of our new program which combines an education in the principles of the various agricultural disciplines together with the practical training provided by the cooperation of the farming community. We can be confident in the potential of our Diploma graduates to contribute to the development and improvement of Quebec rural life.

The 1978 Graduating Class:

The following is the list of students who completed all of the academic and practical requirements for the Diploma in Agriculture in the Fall of 1978. The Diplomas were presented on October 14, 1978:

Richard Audy, Montreal, Que.
Cletus Barry, Beloeil, Que.
Michael Bell, Ormstown, Que.
Gary Benison, Lachine, Que.
Ron Bourdon, Verdun, Que.

Peter Burtch, Montreal, Que.
Peter Clark, Clarenceville, Que.
Carol Clendenning, Hudson, Que.
Gordon D. Crone, Westmount, Que.
John Dinan, Montreal, Que.
John Fenchak, Hemmingford, Que.
Wayne Grubb, Waterloo, Que.
Dominic Guité, Montreal, Que.
Tom Heggison, Chateauguy, Que.
Brian Hoskin, Farnham, Que.
David B. Kay, Ste. Marthe, Que.
Hugh Maynard, Montreal, Que.
John McGlashan, Buckingham, Que.
David Meredith, Chelsea, Que.
Douglas Morrison, Kingsbury, Que.
Joanne Popadick, Lachine, Que.
Brian Purcell, Pointe Claire, Que.
John K. Rhicard, Knowlton, Que.
Warren Smith, Pte. Gatineau, Que.
Janet Sparey, Herdman, Que.
Malcolm Sprague, Montreal, Que.
Marc Stewart, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Que.
Robert G. Sutherland, Huntingdon, Que.
John Tweedie, Montreal, Que.
Robert Valade, Town of Mt. Royal, Que.
Robert VanderStar, Ste. Marthe, Que.

"Fulfilling a Real Need"

by Jim Feeny
Executive Secretary
Quebec Farmers' Association

DOUG JOHNSTON — PROFILE OF A LEADER

One of the highlights of the 1978 Quebec Farmers' Association Annual Meeting was the re-election of Doug Johnston of Stanstead as President of the Provincial Executive Committee.

This is Doug's sixth year as QFA President: a remarkable achievement that shows the confidence placed in him by the QFA membership. Doug has been associated with the QFA since its beginning. He joined the Ayer's Cliff local branch when it was formed in the early 1960s and has stayed with the QFA ever since. He first moved to the Provincial Executive in 1971.

Doug Johnston says that there have been a lot of changes in the Quebec Farmers' Association since he first became President. The survival of the QFA was a pretty chancy matter then. Interest had bottomed out, and membership was at an all-time low.

The QFA has now grown into a large, provincial organization, with a membership of over 700 families. It has branches scattered through rural Quebec, wherever there are anglophone rural people. A great deal of the credit for this growth has to go to the man who led the QFA through its troubled years of the early 70s. Doug, working with MacDonald College and other local leaders, was able to turn the QFA around.

Doug has a real commitment to rural organizations in general and to



President of the Quebec Farmers' Association Doug Johnston and his wife Irene. Both have given generously of their time and effort for various rural organizations.

the QFA in particular. He says that rural groups form the backbone of our rural society. They provide ways and means of keeping rural people together and of keeping them active. By allowing people to group together to do things that they could not do alone, organizations such as the QFA fulfill a real need. Doug does not feel that we should wait for somebody else to organize things for us. We should identify our own needs, work out some way of meeting these needs, and then go ahead and try to achieve our objectives.

Doug's record backs up his beliefs. He is active in a number of rural and farm groups. He has been President of his local Fair Board and is still on that Board as a Director — continuing an involvement that goes back some 50 years. He belongs to the local plowmen's association and has been Provincial

President of the Ayrshire Association. He was one of the first people in Stanstead County to use artificial insemination and is active on the local AI Committee. He has also been an adult leader of the Ayer's Cliff Young Farmers' Club since 1933.

The Young Farmers' Club is one of Doug's strongest interests. He firmly believes that the future of rural Quebec is tied to its youth. He says that the people who will lead our rural organizations in the future are those who are coming up through the 4-H Clubs now. An interest in rural life has to be cultivated early, and he thinks that the Young Farmers' Clubs are the best way to do this. Doug says that you can't expect someone to hit the age of 21 and then suddenly become involved in rural organizations. If he or she hasn't started before that, it's probably too late, and that's why help-

ing kids to "Learn by Doing", the 4-H motto, has kept Doug busy (and happy, it seems) for the last 45 years.

One might get the impression that Doug's life has been one of constantly attending meetings and organizing activities. This has no doubt taken up quite a lot of his time, but he has had many other things to put on his crowded agenda.

Doug and his family have always farmed; one of the sons is now in partnership with his parents. They have a herd of 95 registered Ayrshires, of which about 40 are now milking. They also keep some purebred Landrace sows, which are used as foundation breeding stock. Doug has had as many as 1,500 laying chickens on the farm, but only 250 are kept now.

Doug's Ayrshires have played an important part in his life. His registered herd is in great demand by other Ayrshiremen as breeding stock; some of his heifers have just been shipped to the southern U.S. Doug has always raised his own replacement heifers, with the surplus available for sale. He has built up the demand for his surplus stock over the years by exhibiting at between four and seven shows yearly. He says that showing cattle is a pretty demanding job, but one well worth the trouble. It interests other breeders in the cattle you want to sell, and it's one of the greatest social outlets imaginable. Anyone who has ever seen Doug perched on his showbox at one of the Townships fairs, calling out to any number of passersby, knows what he means!

The old adage says that if you want something done, you should ask a

busy person to do it. Whoever said that must have had someone like Doug Johnston in mind. In his over half a century of service to Quebec's rural community, Doug has seen many changes occur. His contribution has been in helping to ensure that these changes contribute something positive to rural life.

* * * * *

ANNUAL MEETING

Over 70 people attended the Quebec Farmers' Association 1978 Annual Meeting. It was a good turn out and the reports from the regions and local branches (which will be printed in the December QFA Newsletter) summarized what had been, on the whole, a very good year for the QFA.

One of the things that attracted people to the Annual Meeting this year was the guest speaker and topic: François Dagenais, Assistant Depu-

ty Minister of Agriculture for Quebec, who spoke on the then upcoming legislation on the protection of agricultural land in the province. Unfortunately, as it turned out, the Annual Meeting was held just a few days before the details of the bill were finally released. Consequently, Mr. Dagenais was unable to give us more than a summary of the reasons why the legislation was necessary.

Briefly these included the fact that the Quebec government wants the province to become more self-sufficient in food. It argues that we will not be able to increase our food production if more and more of our best land keeps on going out of agriculture, diverted to other uses: housing, industry, and pure speculation.

Many farm groups had also been pushing for some form of controls on land use. They pointed to the



A large turn-out of QFA members, College staff and students for the guest speaker François Dagenais, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Quebec.

skyrocketing prices for farm land, arguing that it was becoming well-nigh impossible for a person to buy land on which to farm. A person couldn't compete with the money offered by people wanting the land for other purposes.

Most members of the QFA who were present (as well as the large number of Macdonald College staff and students) were familiar with the arguments for land zoning. What they wanted to know were the methods that the government were considering using to control the use of agricultural land: in effect, how it was to be protected.

Unfortunately, Mr. Dagenais was not permitted to give us that kind of information at the time. However, the bill to protect agricultural land in Quebec has since been made public, and here is a short (and incomplete) summary of its details.

Bill 90 EXPLAINED

The Bill (Bill 90) has proposed that a large area, including 85 per cent of Quebec's best farmland, be set aside as agriculturally-designated zones. Village and municipal governments within these zones will have to carry out an internal zoning of their own. Each will have to decide what areas within its borders will be reserved solely for agriculture, and what areas will be used for other purposes. Within six months, the municipal corporations will have to submit their plans to a seven-member provincial commission, whose members will be appointed by the provincial government. The commission will accept or reject the municipality's proposal, based upon the guidelines established in its mandate. If the commission rejects the municipality's proposed zoning plan, it will try to work out a com-

promise with the individual municipality, within the six-month deadline. If no compromise is reached, the commission submits its recommendations, and those of the municipality, to the provincial government, which makes the final decision.

Once a final decision is reached, the municipality will have within its borders a zone which will be set aside solely for agricultural use. This means that no other kind of development will be permitted. For instance, farms in the agricultural zone can not be subdivided into building lots or industrial parks. Only a certain number of homes will be permitted on each farm. The use of topsoil in the zone will be strictly regulated (e.g. as in sod farming or gravel quarries). There are many other measures, as well.

Parts of the province which are not included in the "agriculturally-designated" areas, such as the municipality of Melbourne, are not subject to Bill 90. A list of municipalities which are included has been published in many Quebec newspapers.

As this is being written, Bill 90 is not yet law. It has to be approved by the National Assembly in Quebec City, and it is possible that some changes will be made as the Bill goes through its different readings.

This is a very important piece of legislation, which will affect most Quebec residents, one way or another. And this short piece does not even come close to covering all of the Bill's provisions. Other media sources will be providing information on Bill 90 as it goes through its different readings in the Legislature, and your local MNA should be able to give you information, as well. In the meantime, anyone wanting in-

formation on the Bill can phone a special office of the Provincial Government which has been set up to handle this kind of request. People living in the Quebec City area can dial 644-1000. Anywhere else in the province, you can dial (toll-free) 1-800-462-5341. The people answering should be able to answer any of your questions on the proposed Bill to protect agricultural land in Quebec. This information should be available in English.

**Quebec Farmers' Association
1978-79 Executive Committee**

- President:
Doug Johnston, Stanstead
- Vice-President:
Walter Kilgour, Shawville
- Treasurer:
Jim Todd, Huntingdon
- Executive Secretary:
Jim Feeny, Macdonald College
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- Fieldmen:
Warren Grapes, Eastern Townships; Bill Dings, Lachute; Neil McDowell, Shawville; Norman Hamilton, Chateauguay Valley (until January 1, 1979).

The Family Farm



Published in the interests of the farmers of the province by the Quebec Department of Agriculture.



A QUEBEC PRIORITY: FINISHING OUR LIVESTOCK

In 1978 Quebec had to import about 1,200,000 beef carcasses. This represents a trade deficit of \$900 million. At the same time, we annually produce 515,000 dairy calves which are slaughtered before any kind of fattening, or are exported (not counting more than 100,000 first-quality butcher calves which meet the same fate). If these calves were finished or semi-finished, our self-sufficiency in beef would increase from its present 18 per cent to 52 per cent, thus providing additional farm income of \$230 million. With the value added at the processing and marketing levels, \$370 million in buying power would be channelled toward Quebec products and enterprises instead of swelling our commercial deficit in food.

The production, slaughtering, and processing of meat is a sure way of developing Quebec agriculture and that is why the Quebec Department of Agriculture has made it one of its priorities. "We are now setting up the infrastructures which have always been lacking in the shape of storage facilities for grain to feed our herds, feedlots to produce beef cattle efficiently, and abattoirs and delicatessen plants to help Quebec meat break into the big market," declared Mr. Garon in October 1978.

Self-supply in Cereals

Up to a certain point, the development of cattle production in Quebec keeps pace with increased self-supply in grain for livestock feeding. These two sectors are closely related, and that is why the program put forward by the Quebec govern-

ment to increase the capacity of our farmers to produce and store cereals or forage are an essential part of the policy to promote beef cattle raising.

Since the coming into force of these programs last summer, subsidies amounting to \$6 million have made possible the construction of 2,100 hay dryers, 565 forage silos, and 1,420 grain silos in the different Quebec agricultural regions. These programs are spread over five years and, by the time of their expiry will have helped to raise our self-sufficiency in cereals from 34 per cent to 50 per cent. This, in turn, will result in increased profitability for Quebec livestock farms and in savings of millions of dollars of grain imports for Quebec.

Feedlots: A More Realistic Program

The feedlot, which permits lower labour costs and better health and feeding control, is the modern tool in the beef cattle sector. In order to really encourage Quebec farmers to equip themselves adequately in this respect, far-reaching changes have been made in the Department of Agriculture's assistance program for the construction of feedlots.

Previously, this program was practically unavailable to producers because it applied to feedlots with a minimum capacity of 300 head, but now it has really become operational thanks to reduction of the minimum to 50 head. Participation in investment is now 50 per cent with a maximum of \$100 per head and \$20,000 per project. Mr. Garon says

he is convinced that this change will increase the number of feedlots in Quebec, thus allowing us to retain for our economy our young butcher or dairy calves which are at present a raw material being exported without finishing.

Assured Markets

In the past, Quebec farmers were sometimes encouraged to go in for a production without adequate markets or storage capacity. In the case of meat, this situation will definitely not occur because we are now seeing the setting up of one of the most modern abattoir and delicatessen systems.

The Quebec government's program for the rationalization of the meat sector is in full swing. Thanks to government grants of \$2,900,000, 48 projects for abattoirs and delicatessen or convenience food plants have been carried out in a little over one year. These new or improved establishments — to which other enterprises are regularly being added — are all under permanent inspection and represent more markets for Quebec farmers. Thanks to these outlets, Quebec beef will be able to get a foothold in meat distribution chains on the same terms as so-called beef "from the West," which, very often, was born in Quebec.

Stabilization Insurance for Finishers

Another program of major importance connected with the setting up of agricultural and industrial infra-

structures is the stabilization insurance scheme for beef cattle producers' incomes.

Until now, this stabilization scheme has been available especially to calf producers. Although it enabled many farmers to maintain their herds during 1976 and 1977 when prices were low, this measure also had the effect of depriving Quebec of a large part of the production benefits by encouraging the sale of non-fattened calves.

This situation will be corrected by the coming into force of a new income stabilization insurance program for cow-calf operators, for feeders, and also for cattle raisers

who combine both stages of production.

This measure is of major importance for the development of long-term beef production in Quebec since producers will in future be interested in finishing their young cattle themselves rather than selling them as soon as possible in order to obtain compensation.

At all levels, Quebec is thus providing itself with the necessary means of decreasing its food dependence in the beef sector, starting with our underdeveloped livestock resources. It is now essential that Quebec producers and consumers cooperate.

the prolongation of the application period, since injection can be carried out during the entire growing season.

More research on the possibilities of manure storage in the soil and fixation in various soil types under different moisture conditions will enable maximum application rates without contamination of the water table to be determined. Researchers in soil chemistry and fertility are now working to evaluate the effect of different treatments on the growth, yield, and quality of crops and on chemical and biochemical reactions in the soil. These studies are being carried out by Denis Côté of the Pedology Division of the Soil Research Service, in cooperation with the Soil Chemistry and Fertility Division, under the direction of Armand Dubé.

If we consider that the three million tons of liquid pig manure produced annually in Quebec have a value, in the fresh state, of \$22 million, we can readily understand the importance of the rational use of this resource.

LIQUID PIG MANURE: A NEW SPREADING METHOD

At the Saint-Lambert research station in the County of Beauce-North, researchers with the Soil Research Service of the Quebec Department of Agriculture are carrying out tests on the possibility of burying liquid pig manure. For this purpose, an injector designed to break up compact soils and simultaneously incorporate the manure is used. With this device, 15 litres per linear metre can be injected at a depth of 15 to 25 centimetres.

This new method has many advantages over sprinkling. Firstly, injection into the soil decreases the loss of fertilizer elements and efficiently does away with the odours associated with spreading. Secondly, injected at a heavy rate, liquid manure improves the physical and mechanical properties of the subsoil. Lastly, by means of injection, a certain quantity of manure can be stored in the soil so that the plant food elements it contains are gradually released over the next three years.

On the basis of the research already carried out, the profitability of the in-

jection method can also be assessed. The value of the main fertilizer elements (NPK) in a ton of liquid manure is estimated at \$8.31. Taking into account the fact that incorporation into the soil reduces nitrogen loss by 50 per cent, it is estimated that the savings in chemical fertilizer will enable a producer who markets 600 hogs annually to pay the \$1,500 to \$2,000 that an injection system costs within a year.

It may be added that incorporation of liquid pig manure with the soil is more in conformity with standards of environment protection than the present methods of sprinkling. In fact, injection of liquid manure considerably lessens disagreeable odours and nitrogen loss through volatilization of ammonia. In addition, this method has the advantage of stopping wastage in run-off and, at the same time, reducing risk of polluting watercourses.

With injection, speed of application is somewhat reduced because of mechanical constraints. However, this drawback is compensated by

THIRD DAIRY CATTLE SYMPOSIUM

A Symposium Which Benefited All Participants

For the third consecutive year, the Dairy Cattle Committee of the Quebec Livestock Production Council held a symposium on dairy cattle. Chaired by Dr. Réjean Bouchard of Lennoxville, this symposium which attracted close to 1,550 participants, took place at the Centre municipal des congrès in Quebec City on September 28.

With the theme "a question of management", the 1978 symposium was a great success and the topics discussed were designed to guide the participants to better control

over the success factors in dairy farming.

Program of the Symposium

Talks were given by two agronomes well-known in the field of dairy cattle: Raymond Corriveau, representative for the Holstein-Friesian Association and chairman of the Quebec Livestock Production Council, and Louis Bolduc, livestock production advisor for the St-Maurice region (11). Mr. Corriveau gave the opening address. After expressing the wish that the symposium would be profitable to all participants, he invited them to take part in the discussion concerning the different problems of present-day dairy production.

Six speakers addressed the 1978 Dairy Cattle Symposium. Dr. Wilfried Holtmann, geneticist at the Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre, stressed the importance of the amount of proteins in milk, speed of milking, mastitis, difficult calvings, and temperament in the genetic improvement of dairy cattle.

Next, Dr. Armand Tremblay, professor of nutrition in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Saint-Hyacinthe, dealt with the problem of non-delivery of the calf at parturition. Dr. Tremblay placed this set of pathological states in the context of problems associated with the calving period and then defined the condition, its incidence, courses, consequences, treatment, and prevention.

The last speaker of the morning, Marcel Nadeau, regional adviser on livestock production in the Quebec Region (2), discussed the correct use of silage and its nutritional value. He dealt with this conservation process, pointing out its basic rules, advantages, disadvantages, and limitations. He also talked about feed management and economic considerations governing the decision whether or not to use silage.

At lunchtime, Jean Garon, Quebec Minister of Agriculture, addressed

the participants in the symposium. Mr. Garon said that the 1978 symposium filled a real need, and that its goal — as in the case of the preceding ones — was to find ways to improve the efficiency and profitability of Quebec dairy farms.

The minister also touched on the following topics: the ever increasing use of artificial insemination, grants for the construction of silos, the consolidation of traditional dairy markets, the development of new markets or new initiatives (for instance, "school milk" from which 50 per cent of Quebec school children at the kindergarten and elementary levels are benefiting or soon will benefit), the redirection of dairy plants towards food products for which there are fast-growing markets and, finally, the protection of farmlands by zoning as one measure, among others, to be taken to develop the agro-food sector. The Minister added: "The ambition I would like to realize is that Quebec producers feed the people of Quebec".

A regional adviser on production economy in the Eastern Townships Region (5), Jacques Jubinville, then spoke about the technical, qualitative, and economic aspects of pastures. He said that these lands account for a large proportion of the cultivated area of the dairy farms and of the agricultural territory of Quebec. Indeed, faced with the prospect of increasing the productivity of grazing lands on the farm and thus avoid production variations, more and more farmers are wondering about the necessity and profitability of this feed source. The speaker tried to guide the producers in deciding whether to keep or eliminate their grazing lands.

Clément Plante, agronome, in charge of the Dairy Cattle Division of the Livestock Production Service of the Quebec Department of Agriculture, spoke on the dairy heifer, its importance (herd replacement, improvement, etc.). Raising dairy heifers is acknowledged to be

a demanding task calling for constant care and regular supervision by the farmer. Feeding and management are also particularly important factors which must be taken into consideration by any owner of a dairy farm who aims at an income high enough to assure him of reasonable prosperity.

Next, a dairy producer from Victoriaville, Lionel Laroche, told the story of his life as a farmer. Among other things, he praised the Quebec Dairy Herd Analysis Program (QDHAP) which for him was a herd management tool telling him the precise feed requirements of his cows and enabling him to select and cull them better, and to improve the management of his livestock. Mr. Laroche is also a member of the Holstein Association.

To end the day, Raymond Laflamme, regional coordinator in the Nicolet Region (4) gave a summing-up. He said that the dairy industry has always been the most important farm production in Quebec and would be hard to replace. He was in favour of urging and even obliging milk producers to carry out herd testing and to use modern breeding techniques like artificial insemination. "The Province of Quebec," he said, "has attained first place in Canada's overall milk production. I believe our second goal should be the first place in the average milk yield per cow."

In conclusion, Réjean Grégoire, Chairman of the Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, also addressed the participants. He spoke especially of the help given to dairy farmers by the Department's advisers and dairy production specialists. "It will be due," he said, "to the genuine cooperation of all concerned that we shall be able to improve this important sector of Quebec's economy." He believed that milk producers should be able to negotiate the prices and marketing conditions of their products in accordance with the economic realities of farming.



Dear Fellow Institute Members:

It seems such a short time since my last Christmas message to you.

Once again, it is my hope that your homes will be filled with joy and happiness and your hearts filled with love and peace.

Last year I receive a Christmas card which expresses my sentiments and I quote it:

Dear Santa Claus,

These gifts we pray
For others on this Christmas Day —
For all the world the gift of peace,
May good will in each heart increase
That everywhere men may be free
As God intended them to be,
Leave happiness in larger store
Than folks have ever had before,
Make this a year we don't forget —
The kindest, warmest Christmas yet!

May 1979 be a happy and prosperous year for each one of you and may we truly have the spirit of Christmas in our hearts.

Ina Kilgour
Q.W.I. Provincial President



Members' Conference

Brome County Women's Institute hosted a successful Members' Conference on September 25, 1978, in the Sutton Anglican Church Hall. Surrounded by the colourful hills, the setting and timing were perfect. **Missisquoi County** Women's Insti-

tute members were invited to participate in the workshop, making a total attendance of 71. Mrs. Walter Kilgour, President, Miss Edna Smith, Past-President, and Mrs. Sterling Parker, 1st. Vice-President, represented the Executive of the Quebec Women's Institute. Mrs. G. F. Knights, Provincial Home Economics Convener, was also present.

Registration was at 10 o'clock, when members were greeted by Mrs. C. H. Slangen, Brome County President, and Mrs. C. Carr, Sutton Branch President. Name tags in the shape of the QWI crest were handed out.

After Mrs. Kilgour opened the meeting with the Hymn of All Nations and the Mary Stewart Collect, Mrs. Slangen introduced the guests and warmly welcomed all to her county.

Miss Edna Smith spoke words of encouragement in the promotion of the work of the Women's Institute and commented on her pleasure at being able to attend.

The assembly then separated into eight groups to discuss three topics pertaining to the organization and to current events. After the discussion period, the groups reassembled to report on their findings under the leadership of Mrs. Sterling Parker.

At noon a buffet luncheon of salads, hot dishes, and desserts was provided by the hostess county and served by the Sutton Branch.

The afternoon session opened with the singing of the Ode. Following an information period, when Mrs.

Kilgour and Mrs. Parker brought important items to the attention of the members, the gathering broke into groups to answer a quiz on the Handbook. Once more assembled in a single unit the members discussed the Handbook and were given the opportunity to bring up any questions they might have.

Branches were reminded to make sure that all new members received a Handbook. Extra copies can be had by contacting Mrs. G. E. Cascadden. Members were urged to make use of the Conveners' Outlines.

Brome County WIs provided entertainment throughout the day. The singing group of Sutton presented several selections—some old, some more modern. Mrs. N. Needham and Mrs. Judy Ball of South Bolton Branch performed a comedy skit and Mrs. D. Patterson of Austin Branch gave a reading, "A Trip to the City". Abercorn Branch turned to the serious side. Mrs. M. Lehman, who served with the British Military in Eritrea for nine years, gave a short description of that small East African country. Bordering the Red Sea, it has an important natural harbour. It covers an area of 48,000 square miles, and its civilization dates back to 2000 B.C. The people are likable — tall and good-looking with dark, bronze-coloured skin. The coastal plains are very hot, but the climate, though varied, in the Highlands (which extend to 8,000 feet above sea level) is pleasant.

Mrs. Merlin Lewis, Missisquoi County President, extended thanks to Brome County W.I., to the entertainers and to the QWI Executive for a pleasant and worth while day.

The afternoon was brought to a close with the singing of O Canada. Mrs. G. F. Knights was pianist for the day.

After the meeting Mrs. M. Lewis entertained Mrs. Kilgour, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Knights, and Mrs. Carr at supper.

Mrs. Kilgour and Mrs. Parker spent the night in the friendly atmosphere of Mrs. C. H. Slangen's home and the next day toured the Sutton area and Missisquoi County with Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Knights as guides.

A stop was made at the lovely old Beech stonehouse, where the Founder of the Women's Institute movement in Quebec lived. Mrs. Ella Brown, daughter of Mrs. George Beech, graciously allowed the group to view the rooms of the well-preserved home, which is filled with many articles dating back to another era.

The cairn at Dunham, erected in 1961 to commemorate the organizing of the first Women's Institute in Quebec, was inspected. The organizational meeting was held across the street in Best Hall on January 27, 1911.

The masonry of the Cairn has been repaired and the fence, enclosing it on three sides, has been painted.

An interesting afternoon was spent with members of the Missisquoi County Women's Institute at their semi-annual meeting. Members were pleased to have Miss Edna Smith join them at the tea hour.

Mrs. S. Parker
QWI 1st Vice-President

News from the Office

Joan White from Sanderstead Village W.I. in England brightened up the day last August when she visited the QWI office with Lucy French.

Over lunch at Simon Fraser House,

Mrs. White intrigued us with some of her experiences at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton where she spent some time during her visit in Canada.

We were delighted to learn that in England there is a waiting list to become a member of the Women's Institutes. If others share the enthusiasm and interest shown by Mrs. White, it is understandable why membership is so high there. Mrs. French was trying to persuade her to remain here in Canada with us, hoping to recruit her as a member of the West Island Branch, but Mrs. White felt that she should return home to her family.

Before she left the Province she was treated to a tour of the Chateaugay-Valley area with Anne Roberston, which gave her an opportunity to see some of the beautiful farm lands in Quebec.

Mrs. White presented the Q.W.I. office with a beautiful guest book, which we asked her to sign before we had to bid her adieu.

Please note that the QWI telephone number is (514) 547-2000, local 278. Our mailing address is Quebec Women's Institutes, Box 258, Macdonald College, Que., H9X 1C0.

Thank You

On behalf of my sister Alma and my brother-in-law John, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the lovely flowers, for the cards and letters received from Quebec Women Institute members and branches following the death of my brother Earl. I wish that I could thank each one of you individually; I trust, however, this message will convey my sincere gratitude for your thoughtfulness.

Edna L. Smith,
QWI Past President.

Correction

Our apologies! Please add 2-1/2 cups of rolled oats to the list of ingredients for Healthy Fruit Bars, published in the November Journal.

Missisquoi County WI Semi-Annual Convention

On September 26, Dunham Branch of **Missisquoi County WI** was hostess for the semi-annual county convention. Mrs. Reda Lewis called the meeting to order and Mrs. Ruby Sherrer, Dunham Branch President gave the words of welcome and especially welcomed the guests: Mrs. W. Kilgour, Provincial President, Mrs. S. Parker, Provincial 1st Vice-President, and Mrs. Ruby Knights, Provincial Home Economics Convener. The attendance was as follows: Cowansville, 3; Dunham, 12; Fordyce, 13; Stanbridge East, 7; guests, 3. Included in the agenda was a report from Mrs. Barbara Harvey on items sent to Expo-Quebec. Out of a possible 20 points, members received the following: Barbara Harvey, Dunham, embroidered tray cloth, 19.6; Norma Sherrer, Fordyce, macrame wall hanging, 19.2; Barbara Harvey, Dunham, crocheted tablecloth, 18; Mrs. Short, Stanbridge East, three-piece outfit, 17 points.

Mrs. Kilgour told of the lovely tour she had been given of the area and said that this was the first time that she had been down to this part of the Eastern Townships. She visited the cairn in Dunham, Mrs. Beech's home where the first meeting was held. She reminded all branches to keep their histories up to date and to please bring in new members to keep our Institutes active.

Mrs. Parker gave interesting facts on the next FWIC convention to be held in Saskatoon. "Perspectives and Priorities" is the theme. She also spoke most interestingly of the International Peace Gardens that were started in 1932 on the border of Manitoba and North Dakota. There is a chapel for worship, track and field, a music camp, an amphitheatre, as well as a beautiful floral clock. She also stated that northern Canadian WIs are becoming very active, that there are four branches in the Yukon, and that Newfoundland WIs are active in Labrador.

A dessert card party was planned with all branches contributing to the desserts and prizes. Mrs. Irene Williams presented a humorous and enjoyable poem titled "The Ginners," and after the close of the meeting Dunham ladies served a most delicious tea and a social time was enjoyed.

Changes in Education

Howick's education meeting had as guest speaker Mr. Bill White, Principal of the local Elementary School who was introduced by Education Convener Irene Moss. His talk was on things that were once and how they are now. There have been many changes since 1967 when the local school became an elementary school and high school students went to C.V.R. In the fall of 1967 there were 230 students enrolled from kindergarten to Grade VII; this fall there are 138 in kindergarten to Grade VI. All of the staff now have specialized training. Where age used to be the only requirement for admission, now, with Bill 101, a child needs a certificate of admissibility.

Mr. White touched on many aspects of local education — the administration, the teacher's union, school board, sports, music, outdoor education, and extra curricular activities. Many field trips help to round out the elementary pupils' education and give them access to places and experiences they might not otherwise get.

Learning, he said, is more child-centred rather than subject or curriculum-centred with grouping within the class structure. The teaching of French is done with small groups of students rather than a whole classroom as before, and with much better results.

Children with problems in certain areas are taken for special periods of time during the day for help.

Reporting to parents is much more satisfactory for both teachers and pupils. Parents receive a five-page anecdotal report three times a year as well as several interviews and class meetings.

Mr. White said that he believed that Howick Elementary "is a good school with a good and devoted staff."

He spoke of the active school committee that is involved and helps the staff in many practical matters. He appreciates parent volunteers and increased community participation, including the WI support for public speaking. WI members were happy and proud to hear that Howick had won first prize among rural schools for parent membership in Home and School Association last year.

Mr. White introduced the five students who accompanied him and who demonstrated some of the audio-visual aids they have access to and benefit from using: Graham Pitcher, Meredith Taylor, Sandra Buchanan, Patsy Coghlan, and Christopher Ledderhof.

Last year's Grade III pupils under the guidance of Mrs. Dorothy Barr had produced a sound-slide presentation of "The Sleeping Beauty". These students presented the show, explained how it had been prepared, and answered questions with commendable poise and knowledge.

The education theme continued through the various conveners' reports. The roll call: a highlight in my education — prompted the ladies to think back through the years; some to special days such as graduation. Some spoke of adjustments that had to be made, special prizes or awards, and some of special people.

Another Success Story

The annual **Austin** Garden Party was held last August. It was a bright, clear day bringing satisfaction to all and filling the coffers with

a profit of well over \$1,000.

Outside the Town Hall, where the Garden Party was held, ice cream and pop were sold, as were fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and potted plants. Available inside the Hall were varieties of homemade candy, cakes, pies, jams, jellies and so on. There were handmade wooden articles — forks, spoons, spatulas, beaters; a nearly new shop; a Kiddie's Corner, and a rummage room. There were also quilts, hooked rugs, cushions, aprons, knitted goods, luncheon sets, pot holders, and stuffed toys. For those who welcomed a break from shopping and a chance to relax, there was a corner for light refreshments.

What does the Austin WI do with this money? Donations are made to the Memphremagog Library, to the Sherbrooke Hospital, to fire victims, to Student Bursaries, and other worth while areas. Austin WI appreciates the support their Garden Party receives; support which enables them to continue with their worthy community projects.

HANDICRAFT COMPETITIONS FOR 1979

J. & P. Coats Competition

1. Swedish (Huck) weaving
Tote bag (unlined)
2. Crib Quilt (Top only as underside will be judged as well) (Embroidered)
Not appliqued (size approx. 45" x 36")
3. Place mats crocheted
Set of four using J. & P. Coats material

This competition is sponsored by the J. & P. Coats Company. It is an embroidery competition, judged solely on quality of stitchery, appearance, and suitability of material used. This Competition is judged at **County Level**, at County Annual Convention, and only the first and second prize-winning articles may be submitted for judging at the **Provincial Level**. There may be only

one article by any one member, and it must be their own work exclusively. Each category will be judged separately.

QWI Handicraft Competition

1. Bib apron
Machine sewn (trimmed)
2. Crewel picture
Unframed (any size)
3. Ladies slippers (knitted)
No Phentex permitted
4. Crocheted hot dish mats
Set of two
5. Guest towel with tatted edging

Any member may submit an article in each class. Name, address, Branch and County must be securely attached to each entry. This competition is judged only at **Provincial Level**.

All articles must arrive at the Provincial Office at least one week prior to judging which is done at the QWI Annual Convention in May.

EXPO-Quebec

Weaving

1. Bed spread
Warp faced weave
Single or double size
Design and material optional
2. Indian rug
Material of your choice
Width not less than 61 cm
Length of your choice

Sewing

3. Lady's skirt and blouse
Peasant style — note that both skirt and blouse are peasant style
Fabric of your choice
4. Sports sweater for adult
Knitted with needles
Long-sleeved pullover
Material of your choice

Fancy work

5. Dress for little girl, two to six years of age
Smocking (honey comb not permitted)

6. All crocheted wall hanging (unframed)
Not less than 31 cm at the smallest place
Style and material optional

These are to be sent through your County Secretary directly to Quebec. A letter only is to be sent to the Provincial Office stating name of sender and article sent.

Shipton School Fair

Once again the children of the Asbestos-Danville-Shipton Elementary School brought in their handiwork and garden produce to the school gym on a Wednesday evening in September. Our hard-working President, Mrs. Broscumb, was on hand to receive them.

The following morning **Shipton** WI members were there bright and early to label and place the vegetables and flowers. Samples of printing and penmanship, and art work adorned the walls. Models of various kinds were displayed, including plasticene ones by the youngest pupils. Samples of needlework, handicrafts, and cooking were on view.

The judges toured the room later in the day and drew up the prize list. The following school day the prizes were given out by Mrs. Mona Taylor.

The Shipton WI is very grateful for the generous donation from the C.J.M. Company of Asbestos, to the staff of A.D.S., and to the judges who gave of their time. Our membership is small, but we feel that the school fair is an important part of our work for Home, Community, and Country.

A LETTER TO SANTA

From:
The Fordyce Women's Institute

Dear Santa:

As it is getting nearer to Christmas,
And the days are racing along,

We thought we'd better write you
Before the best things you have
are gone.

We hope you'll have time to read this
Because we sincerely believe
It will be the strangest letter,
You ever will receive.

We are not hanging up a stocking,
Or asking for books and such
But we know you must have something
For a group of Women like us.

You see we are not asking singly,
Such as from Helen, Ruth, or Vi.
We're a group that's bound together,
The Women's WI.

Now here's what we wish you'd
bring us,
Good health and the will to try,
To make our WI the grandest
Beneath your big blue sky.

We wish that you'd leave our hearts
full,
Instead of our stockings this year,
Fill our homes with love and
compassion
There'll be no room for worry or fear.

Make us kind and gentle to others,
And to our "Motto" be true,
Give us courage, good will,
and affection,
That is what we are asking of you.

Of course we could ask you for
presents,
When you make your annual call,
But then . . . that would defeat
our purpose,
And that wouldn't do at all.

Gifts are just incidentals,
And we know you'll understand,
So just bring these things we've
mentioned,
And we'll try to be the best WI
in the land.

Irene M. Williams,
Fordyce WI.

Branches Briefly

Although as you read this you will be caught up in the rush and bustle of the festive season, at the time of writing many monthly reports were caught in the slow period of mail delivery. However, if those reports that did manage to get through are indicative of what happened in October, then many branches such as **Inverness** and **Kinnear's Mills** were busy with UNICEF boxes and Hallowe'en parties; they were hearing reports of semi-annual board meetings such as those reported by **Argenteuil County** branches — an interesting piece, **Grenville** also mentioned that a letter of help and ideas from the County President was read — and they were working in high-gear on branch and community activities, hearing some pretty fine speakers, and finding time for a social hour or two, as well.

Guest speakers at **Arundel** were the Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Hutchison, the new minister at Grace Church and his wife who have just arrived from a parish in England. They spoke of their years spent in India, Scotland, and England, recalling many interesting and humorous happenings. **Cowansville's** guest speaker was Miss Elizabeth Watson, R.N., who gave a most interesting talk on rules for good health. She told of some of her experiences when she was school nurse for many years in the district. Also in the medical field, Dr. G. Sutton, a much respected and loved local doctor, spoke at **Hemmingford** on the changes in the practice of obstetrics in the past 30 years. A great deal of diagnosing is done by machines, and there are more Caesarian operations being performed to save distress for the babies. Questions were answered following the talk. **Frontier's** speakers Alice and George Witham took the members on a trip. They saw films that the Withams had taken during the past two summers while they were helping out at a tourist fishing camp at God's Lake, Manitoba. The camp, owned by Mrs. Witham's brother-in-law and sister, Nelson and Annie Laurie Tomalty (a former Frontier member) can only be reached by plane. Mrs. Ruby Moore was

given a special vote of thanks by **Stanbridge East** for so generously donating her time, resources, and talent in updating the branch's history. This same lady gave a most interesting talk on the history of Dunham at **Dunham**. It was the first town established in Missisquoi County in 1796. She read articles on the first settlers, the first post office, and the first cheese factory. She closed her talk by reading some poems composed by local writers of their memories of Dunham and Cowansville. Mrs. Clifton Matthews talked to fellow members of **Pioneer** about beekeeping. She told them about the complex society of the bees and showed the equipment needed for a person to become an apiarist. **Lachute's** Convener of Citizenship Mrs. Deacon's topic was self help. She talked about being prepared for disasters — floods, fire, power failures, and so on. She recommended two books: "Eleven Steps to Survival" published by the Federal government, and also one published by Quebec's Civil Defence entitled "Civil Protection".

From speeches to food with some 50 members and guests of **Frontier** gathered at St. Mungo's Church Hall in Cushing for the Annual Casserole Supper. **Dunham** had a Pot Luck supper before their meeting and **Ormstown** held a very successful mini-bazaar and bake sale preceding their meeting. **Kinnear's Mills** were planning a menu for the Odd Fellows Banquet and **Upper Lachute East End** were planning for a 4-H Banquet.

Aubrey-Riverfield's roll call was an article for the handibags. **Hemmingford's** 23 handibags were acknowledged by CanSave, and **Grenville** sent in 17. A committee has been formed at **Fordyce** to work on the child safety contest — all members felt this was a very worth while cause. **Grenville** took about 35 jars of homemade goodies to the St. Philippe Home and **Frontier** were collecting donations or articles for the Rosemere Home.

From a little more mail received just at deadline time we learn the following: **Waterloo-Warden** were planning their annual card party and raf-

fle, and **Granby West** were arranging their 25 Anniversary dinner. After a visit to "The Home on the Hill" **Clarendon** members decided that they would order 48 garbage containers, one stroke chair, and one wheel chair. **Melbourne Ridge** had a pot luck supper for family and friends, and **Richmond Hill** were planning a rummage sale. **Denison Mills** brought in knitted articles for CanSave and soap for handibags. Mrs. Eastman, County President, was a guest at **Richmond Young Women** where she judged the Hallowe'en costumes of those present. Prizes were awarded to Mother Nature, a fancy dancer, Raggedy Anne and Raggedy Andy, and a "birthday party". **Gore** handed in knitted goods for the Cancer Society and held a Chinese auction. Among donations given out by Cleveland was one to the Dixville Home for their Hallowe'en party.

Franklin Centre members enjoyed predicting the date of the first snowfall. Dates ranged from October 20 to November 15. Roll calls reported were interesting. Among them: **Stanbridge East**, Name a product that you tried and did not like. Many products were discussed that did not live up to their advertising. **Inverness**: Tell something you are thankful for. Answers included good health, family, friends, and a free country to live in. **Granby Hill's** roll call was how to be a good mother-in-law or grandmother. One member read an appropriate poem which portrayed the good points in grandma from a child's viewpoint. Some suggestions were: be kind, don't interfere, really love the in-laws and grandchildren as love goes a long way and a little advice goes a long way also. **Waterloo Warden** members were asked to identify a picture of a Canadian person or pay a five-cent fine. **Melbourne Ridge** were to give a Hallowe'en recipe or pay a fine. Bring in a suggestion for next year's program was from **Spooner Pond**.

Mottos: **Fordyce**, Minds are like parachutes; they only function when they are open. From **Pioneer**, "A wise man will hear and increase his learning." A good thought to leave you with.

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